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The Annual Flower Garden

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W. ATLEE BURPEE CO., Seed Growers, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U. S. A.

There is nothing in this world more beautiful than flowers. Growing in the garden, or cut and placed in vases, they constitute one of the loveliest and most refining influences that change mere houses into bright and cheerful homes. All of us can have flowers, and with such little care and expense that it seems too bad that any one should pass a summer without their company.

There are a large number of free-flowering annuals which grow quickly and which, with only a little attention, make a splendid display throughout the season.

A flower-bed may be planted with a single variety to give a massed and bold effect or it may be composed of a number of different flowers.

Much has been written in the way of advice on planning a flower garden, but every garden is a new and distinct problem. Some planning is necessary and is certainly one of the greatest pleasures in gardening. Most of us want flowers all summer long, so the season of bloom of different varieties must be taken into account. Adaptability to soil and local conditions is, of course, important. In the arrangement of the bed, height and habit of growth should be considered. Color is a matter of first importance with some gardeners. Certain flowers are suitable for cutting and others are not; some are effective in mass plantings, others are most beautiful when they stand alone.

These are the cardinal points in garden planning and it is not necessary to more than mention them here. After all, it is your garden and your own tastes and preferences are important above everything else. Make it to suit yourself and you cannot go wrong.

BURPEE'S ANNUAL is a safe guide in the selection of varieties for the flower-garden. This leaflet will be devoted to advice on the preparation of the garden itself and the particular treatment required by different kinds of flowers.

WHEN TO MAKE THE BED

The best time to start a flower-bed is early spring, as most seeds germinate best during the moist spring weather, even before it is sufficiently warm and settled for setting out plants. Early sowings give earlier and longer seasons of bloom, but with just a little more care any one can have a fine display in the flower-garden from plantings made as late as June 1.

HOW TO PREPARE THE BED

The preparation of the permanent bed should be given careful attention to make the best out of the planting. Before digging the flower-bed, mark out the dimensions, using the spade to get a clean-cut edge. Any good garden soil will usually produce a fine array of flowers if spaded to the proper depth and broken up to make a fine seed-bed. Heavy and moist soils can be made lighter by adding a good quantity of sharp sand or, if this cannot be obtained, finely sieved coal ashes. Usually it will be found of benefit to spade well-rotted manure into the soil. Emphasis must be placed on the fact that the manure should be well rotted, since



the heating effect of fresh manure interferes with the growth of most seeds. In manuring the ground, a layer of well-rotted stable manure is spread evenly over the surface, two or three inches thick, and then spaded into the soil so that it is entirely covered. The depth to spade depends on the thickness of the good top soil. Usually six inches is deep enough. Under no circumstances bring any of the raw subsoil to the surface, as plants will not thrive in it. While spading the ground, break up the large clumps. After spading, use a steel rake to give a fine, smooth surface to the seed-bed. Stones and other coarse material must be raked out, as they interfere with the sowing.

COMPOST SOIL

All of us have seen beautiful displays of annual flowers in parks and many of us have wondered how these results were attained. In most cases the secret lies in the proper preparation of the soil. To get the magnificent displays usually found in parks or large estates, a compost soil is used. This can be prepared quite easily, either in the spring or fall, by gathering clumps of sod and placing them in layers from four to six inches thick, alternating with manure spread two inches thick between each layer of sod. The compost heap should not be more than three feet high, and should be placed in some out-of-the-way corner. It is necessary that the heap be exposed to rain to encourage quick rotting. Six months after the making it should be turned over with the spade, mixing the whole thoroughly. At this time sand can be added in case the soil seems heavy and sticky. If the slops and dish-water from the house are thrown on the heap daily, they will assist in rotting the sod and manure, and at the same time add to its fertility.

Such a compost heap is rather unsightly, especially if near the house, but it is an easy matter to conceal it by planting seeds of rapidly growing annuals, such as nasturtiums, marigolds, petunias, morning glories, and others, over and around the heap. These plants will make a luxuriant growth, covering the heap completely and producing a profusion of blooms. A year after starting the heap the compost is ready for use on the flower-bed. It is sieved through an ash sieve to remove any stones or big lumps and then raked into the surface soil.

Leaf mold or the fine, light, black soil which is found in the woods is also useful for the flower-bed. This can be applied instead of the compost soil, or in connection with it, mixing it with three times its quantity of compost. The addition of sand, wood ashes, or compost will raise the level of the bed. This not only serves to display the flowers to the greatest advantage, but also helps to drain any surplus moisture from heavy rains or from artificial watering. Where a border is to be made along a fence or wall, a strip should be dug in the same manner, rounded up in the center, or, if preferred, made higher at the back. Long, narrow beds can be made in the same manner at the foot of the trellis or along the porch where the plants are to be grown.

THE SEED-BED

In many cases the seed-bed is used for raising seedlings which later are transplanted to their permanent place in the garden. The purpose of the seed-bed is to provide an ideal location for the germination and early growth of the seedling. A corner of the garden thoroughly spaded, with the top layer of soil enriched by compost, will make a suitable bed. A solid fence, wall, or a building on the north will hold off the cold winds from this direction. A slight slope toward the south or southeast is preferable, and in every case the bed must be well drained. It should be located where it receives the full warmth of the sunny spring days. Thorough preparation of the bed consists in raking the soil over and over until it is perfectly smooth and fine. Mark shallow drills across the bed not more than one-half inch deep and about six inches apart. Sow the seed thinly in these drills and cover lightly with fine soil. Covering the seeds to a depth of two or three times their diameter is an excellent rule to follow. Each row should be labeled to show the variety of seed sown, as the seedlings must be identified when ready for setting out. Making the drills some little distance apart not only serves to keep the varieties well separated, but also permits frequent stirring of the soil between the rows. This is of great assistance in encouraging a quick growth of the seedlings and keeping down the weeds. The seed-bed is valuable for raising plants of almost all annuals except those which do not transplant well, as poppies, and the more tender kind, which should be started in the house or hot-bed.

STARTING PLANTS IN THE HOUSE OR HOT-BED

Many of our choicest summer-flowering and foliage plants came originally from warmer climates, where the growing seasons are much longer than ours. These plants require considerable warmth and sunshine to start the seeds into growth, and the young plants should be kept at a uniform warm temperature. A notable instance of this is the brilliant-leaved Coleus. These plants cannot be set outdoors until the nights are quite warm and the trees are out in full leaf. They would receive a severe check in growth, or be entirely destroyed, by a touch of frost. Since they cannot be set out, with us, until the latter part of May, it is a great advantage to have the young plants well grown before that time, so that they may quickly make an effective display. In nearly every home there is a bright, sunny window which will

serve admirably as a nursery for these warmth-loving plants. If the window-sill is not deep enough for the seed-boxes, a shelf can easily be made with light brackets. When the days become warm and sunny in March, the seed-boxes should be prepared.

Seed-pans of about half the ordinary height of flower-pots are excellent for the purpose, but generally are not easily obtained. Every flower-gardener can, however, make small shallow boxes two or three inches deep, which will answer quite well. Fill these boxes nearly full with fine, rich soil or compost; if the soil is heavy or sticky, one-third sharp sand or fine ashes should be added and well mixed with the soil before filling the boxes. Settle the soil firmly in the boxes, and for very fine seeds, like begonias, coleus, etc., it should be well watered two hours before the seed is sown. Scatter the seeds evenly and thinly over the surface. If the box is of good size and several varieties with larger seeds are to be planted, the seeds may be sown in shallow drills three inches apart. Sprinkle the seed lightly with fine soil, barely covering it from view, and press the surface lightly with a small block so that the seeds will not wash out when watered. Now apply tepid water gently with a fine spray. Keep the soil slightly moist, being careful not to over-water nor to allow it to become dry while the seeds are sprouting. On very bright, warm days, when the soil dries out quickly, it may be shaded with a piece of newspaper during the heat of the day, but at all other times the box should be fully exposed to the light and air.

When the young seedlings are well started, they should be carefully lifted and replanted in small flower-pots or set three or four inches apart each way in fresh boxes prepared in the same manner as for sowing the seeds. As they increase in size and strength they should be transplanted to larger pots, giving them more and more space and air as they grow larger, so that they may be strong and bushy in growth when the time comes for setting them in the flower-bed.

SOWING OUTDOORS

In the open, seed of the hardier annuals can be planted early in the spring, when the trees are starting into leaf. Usually the seed is sown directly into the bed where the plants are to bloom. Where a bed is to be planted solidly to poppies, petunias, or easily growing plants of like character, the seed may be sown thinly over the surface of the freshly prepared bed and lightly raked in. Where a border is desired, a drill or light furrow, one-quarter or one-half inch deep, may be made around the edge of the bed with a small stick and the seed sown thinly in this drill, and lightly covered with fine surface soil. Sweet Alyssum, *Bartonia*, *Mignonette*, and others will do well for this purpose. Larger growing plants, such as *Stocks*, *Scarlet Sage*, *Zinnia*, *Cosmos*, and others, can be sown thinly in shallow drills in the border, or they may be started in the seed-bed, to be transplanted when three or four inches high. To save the time and trouble of transplanting, three or four seeds may be planted in a cluster where each plant is desired to stand, and, when well started, thinned out to the best plant in each place.

TRANSPLANTING

Choose a late afternoon after a good soaking rain, if possible, for transplanting the seedlings. If the soil has become dry, it would be well to water the seed-bed thoroughly a few hours before transplanting. Use a trowel or a stick to loosen the soil around the roots, carefully dig up each plant with all the roots possible, and set in a hole sufficiently large to allow the roots to be spread out in planting. Draw the soil over the roots and slightly up around the stem, and press it firmly into place. A good watering after transplanting will help the plants to become established in their new location. If the following day is warm and clear, shade with a newspaper during the hottest part of the day.

THE CARE AND CULTIVATION OF THE FLOWER-BED

When the young seedlings or transplanted plants are well established, the surface of the bed should be frequently loosened with a small hoe or one of the hand scratchers or cultivators. This will keep down the weeds and encourage quick growth of the plants. In dry periods, plants may be kept growing by watering them, but such watering should be well done, wetting the soil thoroughly. When the beds begin to dry off, either after watering or after a heavy rain, the soil should again be loosened and made fine with a hoe or scratcher.

The neat and attractive appearance of the flower-bed will be much enhanced if all the blossoms are cut off and removed as soon as they fade. This will also prolong the flowering period. In the fall the blossoming period may be further prolonged by covering the flower-bed with sheets or newspapers on cold nights, as we often have several weeks of mild weather after the first light frost which injures the more tender plants.

WHAT TO PLANT INDOORS IN MARCH OR APRIL

Or in the hot-bed or cold-frame, to furnish plants for setting out in May:

Abutilon	Begonias	Cockscomb
Ageratum	Browallia	Coleus
Antirrhinum	Cannas	Cypress Vine
Asters	Celosia	Dahlias
Balsam	Cobœa	Geranium

Heliotrope
Ipomœa
Lantana
Lemon Verbena

Lobelias
Marigold
Salvia (Flowering Sage)
Large-flowered and
Double Petunias

Ricinus
Stocks
Torenia
Verbena

WHAT TO PLANT IN APRIL

In the seed-bed or in the garden where they are to grow and bloom, making the planting when the trees are starting out in leaf:

Abronia
Ageratum
Sweet Alyssum
Anchusa
Antirrhinum
Asters
Balloon Vine
Brachycome
Browallia
Calendula
Calliopsis
Canary-bird Flower
Candytuft
Carnations

Centaurea
Annual Chrysanthemums
Cosmos
Cypress Vine
Datura
Dianthus
Eschscholtzia
Forget-Me-Not
Gaillardia
Godetia
Gypsophila
Larkspur
Lobelia
Marigold

Mignonette
Nasturtiums
Pansies
Petunia
Phlox
Poppies
Salpiglossis
Scabiosa
Stocks
Sunflowers
Sweet Peas
Verbena
Zinnias
Everlastings

Ornamental Grasses

WHAT TO PLANT IN MAY

Seeds of the following require considerable warmth to start them into growth, and the young plants are liable to injury from cool nights. Therefore it is best to defer planting the seeds in the open ground until the trees are in bloom, as the nights are then quite warm. If plantings of the varieties in the preceding list have been omitted, they can still be made at this time along with the following:

Abutilon
Balsam
Begonia
Celosia
Cleome
Cobœa
Cockscomb
Coleus

Dahlia
Euphorbia
Four-o'Clock
Ipomœa
Lemon Verbena
Momordica
Moonflower
Morning Glories

Nicotiana
Portulaca
Ricinus
Salvia
Sensitive Plant
Stocks
Torenia

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

We know, from the care with which Burpee's seeds are grown and tested, that we supply "THE BEST SEEDS THAT GROW." But even the best seeds will fail if not given proper care. Therefore, besides the general directions already given, we print below special directions for guidance in growing some of the most popular flowers from seed.

Ageratum

This is easily grown from seed sown in the open from April until June, or, if very early blooms are desired, the seeds can be started indoors. The plants may stand three to six inches apart in the row. Late in the fall the plants can be potted up for winter blooming indoors.

Sweet Alyssum

Seed may be sown thinly in shallow drills as early in the spring as the seed-bed can be prepared. Sowings for successions may be made up until August 1, as it will grow and come into bloom very quickly. Does not require thinning. Also suited for winter blooming in the house or for vases and hanging baskets.

Balsam

When the maples are out in leaf, this seed may be sown in the flower-bed where the plants are to bloom and the seedlings thinned to stand from eight to twelve inches in the rows. For early flowers the seeds may be sown in shallow boxes in the house early in March. Pot or transplant the seedlings as soon as three inches high, setting them out after the weather has become settled.

Calendula

The seed is usually sown where the plants are to stand and thinned to six inches apart, but they may be started indoors and transplanted about the first of May. They will bloom throughout the season if the flowers are kept picked. Seeds sown late in the summer make fine plants for winter blooming if potted up before severe frosts.

Calliopsis

Sow the seed thinly where the plants are to bloom early in the spring. Thin to stand from four to six inches apart. The young plants may also be started in the seed-bed and transplanted when three to four inches high.

Canary-Bird Flower

Sow the seed indoors and set out when the trees are in full leaf. The seed can also be sown thinly in the open when the trees are starting in leaf. It may be grown as a trailing plant in baskets and vases, or used to cover a trellis.

Marguerite Carnations

Seed may be sown thinly in shallow drills in the flower-garden early in the spring when the trees are starting out in leaf, and the plants will begin to bloom in about four months. When well started, the young plants should be transplanted to stand ten or twelve inches apart. They are quite hardy, flowering the first season until late in the fall, and will live out all winter if given the protection of a mulch of long, strawy manure during the winter months. Or they may be cut back by removing the flower-shoots early in the fall and planted in pots for winter flowering in a cool room or conservatory.

Centaurea

These hardy annuals are sown in the open early in spring and are thinned to stand from six to twelve inches apart when three or four inches high.

Cleome

A fall-flowering annual that must be sown during May to grow to perfection. The seed is sown thinly in shallow drills and the plants are thinned out to stand from twelve to twenty-four inches apart. They succeed best in sandy soil in a sunny location.

Annual Chrysanthemums ("French Marguerites," or "Painted Daisies")

These annual chrysanthemums are altogether different from the varieties grown by florists, which are perennials. The annual varieties are easily grown and flower freely during the summer and fall. Sow seed thinly in shallow drills early in the spring. When well started, thin out or transplant so that the plants will stand ten or twelve inches apart each way. Started early indoors, these make fine pot-plants for cool rooms.

Cobœa

A Mexican climber of very rapid growth, quickly attaining a great height. In our northern climate it is an excellent plan to start it early in flower-pots in the house, so as to have plants of good size to set out when the weather becomes warm. The seed may also be planted in light, rich soil in the open ground at the base of a trellis when the trees are well out in leaf. The seed will germinate more readily if pushed into the earth edgewise and should be planted only just below the surface.

Cockscomb (*Celosia Cristata*)

The seed is sown when the weather becomes warm and the apple trees are in bloom. When two or three inches high, thin out to stand from six to twelve inches apart in the row. They can also be started in the seed-bed to be transplanted to their permanent place. For early plants start the seed indoors during March.

Coleus

Seed should be sown in shallow boxes placed in the sunny window of a warm room. As soon as the young plants are one-half inch high, transplant to small pots. Plant out in the flower-beds when the trees are in full leaf and the nights quite warm. When a solid mass of color is desired, set plants ten inches apart each way and pinch off the center stems to make them branch freely. Where large specimen plants are wanted, set plants two feet apart each way in rich soil and pinch off the flower-spikes when they appear at the top of the plant. The *Coleus* is very useful and highly ornamental when grown in pots or vases on the porch or lawn, and as a house-plant for warm rooms in winter.

Cosmos

The plants are quite hardy, and the seed may be sown thinly in drills, or two or three seeds planted in a spot where the plants are to bloom, early in the spring when the trees are starting out in leaf. When well started, the taller growing varieties should be thinned to stand about two feet apart. They grow very quickly in any garden soil, and the handsome flowers are produced in the greatest profusion.

Cypress Vine

Fine for small ornamental trellis or wire supports, growing very quickly and blooming freely. Seed may be sown at base of trellis when trees are starting out in leaf, or in pots or boxes in March, to be planted in the garden when the weather is warm. The vines are most effective when grown on slender wire or string supports.

Dahlias

Dahlias are easily grown from seed. Sow the seed thinly in drills one-half inch deep in the hot-bed, or in shallow boxes of rich soil in the house early in the spring. When well started, transplant to the open ground when the trees are out in full leaf. The seed may also be sown in the open during May. Set the plants two feet or more apart each way and support each plant with a stout stake. In the fall the tops may be cut off and the roots dug and wintered in a warm cellar.

Dianthus (Chinese and Japanese Pinks)

Seed should be sown thinly in shallow drills when the trees are starting out in leaf. When the plants are well started, thin out or transplant so that they will stand four to six inches apart in the row. The plants begin to flower early in the season, and continue in bloom until the blooms are cut off by hard frosts late in the fall.

Eschscholtzia

Early in the spring sow the seed thinly in shallow drills where the plants are to flower. In Southern States they succeed best from seed sown in the fall. Where a whole bed of these flowers is desired, the seed may be sown broadcast over the bed and lightly raked in. This is a most effective way of planting this gorgeous flower. When well started, the young plants may be thinned out to stand four to six inches apart.

Forget-Me-Not

These succeed best in moist soils, blooming most freely during the spring and fall months. They will flower also as a house-plant during winter if kept in a cool room. Seed should be sown thinly in shallow drills early in the spring, and when well started, may be thinned out or transplanted to stand six inches apart. They make a beautiful border when planted in a single row around the bed or along the garden walks.

Gaillardias

The annual Gaillardias give a profusion of bloom throughout the season. The seed can be sown outdoors early in the spring where the plants are to stand or, for earlier results, indoors or in the seed-bed. The plants should stand six to eight inches apart. If the flowers are cut, they last a long time in water, and cutting the flowers lengthens the blooming period of the plants.

Ipomœa

The seed should be sown in the spring when the trees are in leaf, choosing light, rich soil and covering the seed about one-half inch deep. They may also be started indoors in March or April, to be set out in their permanent place when the weather has become warm.

Larkspur

Sow seed thinly in shallow drills early in the spring when the trees are starting out in leaf. When the young plants are well started, thin out or transplant to six inches apart for the dwarf varieties and one foot for the taller ones.

Lobelias

This seed is very small, and should be sown in shallow boxes in a warm, sunny window, or in shallow drills outdoors when the trees are starting out in leaf. Barely cover the seed from view. The young plants come up quite thickly, and may be dug up in small clumps an inch across and set out for borders, placing them four inches apart. They will spread quickly and form a solid mass of flowers. Lobelias do best in rather cool weather.

Marigold

Seed should be sown in shallow drills in the garden early in spring, after all danger of frost is past. When the young plants are two or three inches high, thin them to stand one or two feet apart according to the height the variety will attain.

Mignonette

A quick-growing annual, producing the finest flower-spikes during the cool, moist weather of the spring and fall months. It can be easily grown in a cool room in winter if seed is sown in pots early in the fall. The flowers are richer in fragrance when grown in light, sandy soils, but the plants do not grow so vigorously nor are the spikes so large as in rich, heavy soils. Seed should be sown thinly in shallow drills early in the spring, when the trees are starting out in leaf; when the young plants are well started, they should be thinned out or transplanted to stand six inches apart in the row. A second planting should be made about the first of August, which will produce the largest flowers of the season during the cool fall months. In making this sowing, it is important that the covering of soil should be packed firmly over the seed to insure proper germination. When grown in pots, ten or twelve seeds should be sown in each pot, to be thinned out to the best two or three plants when one or two inches high.

Moonflower

The Moonflowers belong to the Ipomœas. Refer to these for Culture.

Morning Glories

Seed of the ordinary Morning Glories may be sown as early in the spring as the soil can be put in a fine, loose condition; but with the finer Japanese sorts we would advise either delaying the planting until the trees are starting out in leaf, or starting the seed in boxes in the house early and growing the plants in pots until the trees are out in full leaf.

Petunias

Seed of the small-flowered or hybrid type may be sown thinly in shallow drills or broadcast any time in the spring after the trees start out in leaf. The plants can stand quite thickly and usually do not need to be thinned out. Owing to its quick growth and profusion of bright flowers the Petunia is very useful for sowing at odd times, as portions of the flower-beds become bare. If sown early it will bloom all summer and is one of the easiest to handle and most effective of all annual flowers.

The seed of the Double- and Giant-flowered varieties is so expensive, because of the great amount of hand labor involved in its production, that it is best to take extra care in planting the seed and growing the young plants. We advise sowing this seed in shallow boxes of light, rich soil in the sunny window of a warm room during March or April. When the seedlings are well started, or have two or three leaves, transplant them into small flower-pots, or two inches apart in shallow boxes. They can be grown in these until the trees are out in full leaf. Then they should be set out, one to two feet apart each way, in the beds where they are to bloom. The large-flowered sorts will cover a space three to four feet across when full grown, and it is best to set them one foot apart at first and, as they increase in size, the poorer ones may be pulled and the finer ones allowed more room to spread. Since the seed for the double-flowered plants is produced by hybridizing on single-flowered plants, only about 30 per cent. will come double, and by close planting and thinning, as suggested, a bed may be had of all double-flowered plants.

Phlox Drummondii

The seed may be sown in the spring, in drills where the plants are to bloom. No thinning is required. Cover not more than one-quarter inch deep with fine soil. Seed started early in a warm room will make potting plants that will be in full bloom when the trees begin to leaf.

Poppies

Seed should be sown quite early in the spring, as the plants start best while the soil is still cool and moist. The seed is very small and should be sown thinly and barely covered from view. When well started, the plants may be thinned out to stand three to four inches apart. It is almost impossible to transplant poppies successfully.

Portulaca

The plants will thrive in almost any situation, but will grow more quickly and bloom more profusely in a sunny location and in light or sandy soils. Do not plant until the weather has become quite warm, and barely cover the seed from view. Seed may be sown broadcast or thinly in drills and the plants do not need to be thinned. They will grow very rapidly and soon cover the whole bed with foliage and flowers. The double-flowered varieties are much larger and more finely double during the latter portion of the season than when they first commence to bloom.

Ricinus (Castor-Oil Bean)

As Ricinus is quite susceptible to frost, the seed should not be planted in the open ground until the weather has become warm and the trees are out in full leaf. Plant two or three seeds in places at least four feet apart each way. When well started, take out all but the best plant in each hill. It is an excellent plan to start the seed in March or April in flower-pots in the house or hot-bed, but large pots and rich soil should be provided so that the plants will not be stunted.

Salvia (Flowering Sage)

Seed should be sown thinly in drills when the ground is quite warm and the trees well out in leaf. When the plants are well started, transplant to beds of rich soil, setting them two feet or more apart each way. To have Salvia in bloom early in the summer the seed should be sown early in March in shallow boxes of light, rich soil, placed in a warm, sunny window. When well started, set the young plants in small flower-pots and keep them growing as rapidly as possible until the nights are quite warm, when they can be set out in their permanent location.

Stocks

As these do best in cool, moist weather, seed for early-flowering plants should be sown in hot-beds or in shallow boxes of rich soil in a warm, sunny window, and the plants kept growing rapidly in pots, giving plenty of fresh air on all warm days. To insure fine flowers they must be planted in rich soil and given frequent cultivation. Seed sown thinly in shallow drills outdoors during May, and when well started, thinned to stand one foot apart each way in rich soil, will afford splendid spikes of fine flowers, in great profusion, during the cool fall months.

Sunflowers

Hardy annuals of the easiest culture, simply requiring that the seeds be sown early in the spring when the trees are starting out in leaf. When well started, thin or transplant to stand two feet apart, as they will make much finer plants and flowers if allowed plenty of room to develop. Sunflowers are extremely showy on large lawns and as backgrounds to set off borders.

Zinnias

Seeds may be sown thinly in drills early in the spring when the trees are starting out in leaf. Transplant or thin the young plants when two or three inches high to stand eight inches apart for the dwarf kinds and eighteen inches apart for the tall ones. For early blooming, seeds may be planted in cold-frames or shallow boxes in a sunny window and transplanted outdoors when the weather is warm.

Everlasting Flowers

All of the Everlastings are quite hardy, and the seeds may be sown thinly in shallow drills early in the spring when the trees are starting out in leaf; when the young plants are well started they should be thinned out to stand six to eight inches apart. The plants are very showy when in bloom. The flowers may be cut as soon as they come into full bloom, tied in small bunches, and dried in the shade, with the heads downward to keep the stems straight. If properly dried, the flowers will retain their bright colors and can be kept indefinitely.

Ornamental Grasses

The grasses are all quite hardy. To insure a good stand of plants the seed should be sown thinly in shallow drills as early in the spring as the soil can be worked into a fine, loose condition. The plants may be allowed to grow thickly to form a border to the flower-bed, but will produce finer and larger sprays for drying if thinned out or transplanted to stand several inches apart.

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